year, the agency must report that information to the Secretary within 30 days of acquiring such data.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

 $[64\ FR\ 56617,\ Oct.\ 20,\ 1999,\ as\ amended\ at\ 74\ FR\ 55427,\ Oct.\ 27,\ 2009]$

§ 602.20 Enforcement of standards.

- (a) If the agency's review of an institution or program under any standard indicates that the institution or program is not in compliance with that standard, the agency must—
- (1) Immediately initiate adverse action against the institution or program; or
- (2) Require the institution or program to take appropriate action to bring itself into compliance with the agency's standards within a time period that must not exceed—
- (i) Twelve months, if the program, or the longest program offered by the institution, is less than one year in length;
- (ii) Eighteen months, if the program, or the longest program offered by the institution, is at least one year, but less than two years, in length; or
- (iii) Two years, if the program, or the longest program offered by the institution, is at least two years in length.
- (b) If the institution or program does not bring itself into compliance within the specified period, the agency must take immediate adverse action unless the agency, for good cause, extends the period for achieving compliance.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

§ 602.21 Review of standards.

- (a) The agency must maintain a systematic program of review that demonstrates that its standards are adequate to evaluate the quality of the education or training provided by the institutions and programs it accredits and relevant to the educational or training needs of students.
- (b) The agency determines the specific procedures it follows in evaluating its standards, but the agency must ensure that its program of review—
- (1) Is comprehensive;
- (2) Occurs at regular, yet reasonable, intervals or on an ongoing basis;

- (3) Examines each of the agency's standards and the standards as a whole; and
- (4) Involves all of the agency's relevant constituencies in the review and affords them a meaningful opportunity to provide input into the review.
- (c) If the agency determines, at any point during its systematic program of review, that it needs to make changes to its standards, the agency must initiate action within 12 months to make the changes and must complete that action within a reasonable period of time. Before finalizing any changes to its standards, the agency must—
- (1) Provide notice to all of the agency's relevant constituencies, and other parties who have made their interest known to the agency, of the changes the agency proposes to make;
- (2) Give the constituencies and other interested parties adequate opportunity to comment on the proposed changes; and
- (3) Take into account any comments on the proposed changes submitted timely by the relevant constituencies and by other interested parties.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

REQUIRED OPERATING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

§ 602.22 Substantive change.

- (a) If the agency accredits institutions, it must maintain adequate substantive change policies that ensure that any substantive change to the educational mission, program, or programs of an institution after the agency has accredited or preaccredited the institution does not adversely affect the capacity of the institution to continue to meet the agency's standards. The agency meets this requirement if—
- (1) The agency requires the institution to obtain the agency's approval of the substantive change before the agency includes the change in the scope of accreditation or preaccreditation it previously granted to the institution; and
- (2) The agency's definition of substantive change includes at least the following types of change:
- (i) Any change in the established mission or objectives of the institution.